

## MYLES STANDISH DUG UP

Charles Nathan Brooks Wheeler of Surplus St., who graduated with the class of 1886 from Harvard is the authority for this story, and if you don't believe Myles Standish was dug up in 1898, be assured he was there when it happened.

Wheeler was teaching at Powder Point Academy in 1898 when some descendants of Governor Bradford expressed doubt about whether Myles

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Standish was the person in the grave. Armed with statistics on his height and build, they received permission to have the body disinterred so they could examine it.

"When the coffin was opened," said Wheeler, "I could see the weave of a homespun suit which disintegrated into dust when it was exposed to the air. The investigation proved it was Myles Standish beyond reasonable doubt."

On April 25, 1931, the bones of

Myles Standish were committed to the soil of an ancient Duxbury cemetery for the third time in 3 centuries, while a dozen of his descendants who perpetuate his name stood by.

Forty-two years earlier his remains had been disinterred by historical experts for verification and returned to the grave in a wooden coffin. In 1931 the casket was opened, and next day the bones were sealed again under metal in a cement sheath so they might be preserved. The reburial was sponsored by the Town of Duxbury and the Myles Standish Historical Association. The grave was the same in which the Captain was originally buried located, in accordance with his wishes, between the graves of his daughter, Laura, and his daughter-in-law, Mary Standish. All 3 graves are enclosed by a granite wall on which rest ancient cannon. A 3-ton boulder on which his name is roughly hewn, rests on his grave.